

Virginia Marth  
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December 27, 2016

Regarding:  
Section 214, Discontinuance Application(s)  
WC Docket No. 16-399, Comp. Pol. File No. 1365

To whom it may concern --

I am writing to express my great concern over the plan to replace landline telephone service with wireless cellular technology exclusively. I suffer with a Disability called Electrical Hypersensitivity and cannot use wireless technologies at all for any sustained period of time without deleterious effects including dramatic cognitive worsening, brain fog, neural excitation, pain, headaches and if the exposure is prolonged, seizures. This disability and health condition has been documented and in fact I was awarded Social Security Disability this year with EHS as one of my primary medical diagnoses. More and more people are finding that proximity to cell phones to be problematic and if not an acute issue it has been indicated that prolonged exposures to cell phone radiation to be implicated in a variety of cancers including brain cancers. It has been shown that within 3 minutes of having a cell phone in proximity to the head the Blood Brain Barrier increases its permeability. There are more and more people living with EHS and without access to a landline telephone it will be very difficult if not impossible for them to reach out and connect with others in a way that is commonly taken for granted.

I find that it is extremely important, in fact imperative that citizens be able to retain the option to receive basic telephone service through traditional landlines.

Below I have included a letter about my health as it relates to Electrical Hypersensitivity. This letter was written in support of my Disability case and gives some good information regarding EHS.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Virginia Marth, M.S., Ph.D., abd

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***Michael R. Neuert, MA, BSME***  
**Neuert Electric & Electromagnetic Services**

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**California Contractor License #687093**  
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June 14, 2016

RE: SSDI/Disability Background Information for Virginia Marth

To Whom It May Concern:

Virginia Marth has been a client of mine since 2007. Professionally, my records show that I have been working with Virginia since August of 2007, and have worked with her regularly since then.

I am an engineer with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin (Madison, 1978), and a Master Degree in Human Systems Psychology from Sonoma State University (Rohnert Park, CA, 1984). I am also a licensed electrical contractor in the State of California. I have been performing EMF test and mitigation services for homes and offices since January of 1992. My business, Neuert Electromagnetic Services (California Contractor License #687093), is based in Sonoma County, California, but my work regularly involves clients from all over the United States.

For over 24 years, my professional work has been to assist and support clients who report substantial health impacts related to electromagnetic fields (EMF). Specifically this condition is sometimes called "Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity" (EHS). While this condition is still relatively unfamiliar to most medical practitioners in the US, it is much more widely recognized in Europe (especially in Sweden, where official steps are often taken to provide special protective low-EMF environments for EHS sufferers.

Since 1992, I have found that a significant number of my clients who report debilitating symptoms from exposure to EMFs, have often also been diagnosed with Lyme Disease, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, various auto-immune diseases, and other chronic health conditions. I am not a medical doctor or health professional, so I cannot diagnose or confirm any symptoms or illness, but I do regularly offer my insights to medical doctors and patients based on my many years of experience working with afflicted clients.

I distinctly remember that even back in 2007, during those first onsite visits with Virginia, she clearly showed many of the common signs of severe hypersensitivity to environmental exposures such as electromagnetic fields, chemicals, mold, etc. This was often evidenced to me by (1) the obvious reddish inflammation of her skin, (2) her difficulty with concentration and simple mental tasks, (3) a strong but unexplained sense of anxiety, worry and irritability, as well as (4) her obvious debilitation and chronic health issues from exposure from EMFs and other environmental factors that most people would simply not react to.

Again, I am not a physician, but I did observe from the beginning of my work with Virginia back in 2007, that she could not use high-EMF devices like cell phones, wireless computers, cordless phones and Wi-Fi routers without symptoms. Avoiding these devices helped her cope. She explained (and to the best of my knowledge it was obviously true) that she would have strong and disruptive neurologic reactions to using any kind of cordless or wireless device. She said it

felt like her nerves were firing uncontrollably in her head, and that she would rapidly become unable to think and would feel very stressed and anxious. I took these reports of her health symptoms seriously – they are common complaints voiced by my highly sensitive clients. And as also sometimes happens, her sensitivity was increasing, and even lower-emission devices like regular landline phones and speaker phones were beginning to cause symptoms.

In my anecdotal experience from working with thousands of clients over the years, the disability referred to as “Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity” (EHS) appears to have many commonalities with other chronic ailments such Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, Lyme Disease, various autoimmune diseases, and extreme allergy conditions involving foods, mold, pollen, and chemicals. In all these cases, a relatively small amount of an offending substance or exposure – an amount that most other people can easily tolerate – will cause severe reactions and debilitating symptoms in the highly sensitive person.

Again I am not a medical doctor, but Virginia appeared to exhibit many of the common indications of heightened sensitivities that I often see in my practice, as well as the related emotional and mental challenges that come with them. I know that Virginia had to stop using all computers, and in the summer of 2008 she even had to hire an assistant to help her with daily needs such as making telephone calls. She also had to avoid any buildings with Wi-Fi (which even back then was a already sever limitation). Regardless of the possible causes (e.g., EMFs, mold, Lyme, immune compromise, metal toxicity, trauma, etc.), this medical condition has been a severely limiting and life changing issue for her.

Regarding EMFs in particular, in recent years there have been more and more scientific studies reporting a variety of adverse health effects related to EMFs. A useful summary of the potential health effects reported in thousands of studies by international researchers has been published in a document called the BioInitiative Report ([www.bioinitiative.org](http://www.bioinitiative.org)). Sensitive individuals and those with other chronic health issues (like Virginia) seem to experience many of the health problems outlined in this report, but in a much more severe manner than for the average population.

I hope that this information has been helpful in understanding Virginia Marth’s health problems, and her medical issues that I have been a witness to since my work with her began back in 2007.

Thank you for your consideration of these important concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Neuert, MA, BSME  
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Neuert Electric & Electromagnetic Services  
Santa Rosa, California ([www.emfcenter.com](http://www.emfcenter.com))